



Happy Home Newsletter

Happy Home Orphanage is a non-profit organization created in June 2006 and administered by volunteers from Kenya, Canada and Belgium. Happy Home is located in Southwestern Kenya about 400 km from Nairobi, near the town of Migori. The project is funded by individuals and organizations from Kenya, Canada, Belgium and the USA.

The first 12 children arrived in November 2006. Today, Happy Home cares for **31 children**. We are proud that 10 among them recently started secondary school and prof. training.

Our aim is to help **orphans and vulnerable children** by providing them a nurturing family in which to grow. A safe shelter, good nutrition, health services, strong education and loving caretakers are our keystones to prepare them for a brighter future. We believe it is important for the children to grow up in their **own culture** with their **own community**. To that end, we recruit staff from the area, send the children to a local school and encourage them to visit their extended family during school holidays.



Children in their school uniform after taking lunch.



Happy Home News

Dear Happy Home friends,

This early 2014, we are proud to celebrate the outcomes of our and your efforts during the last 7 years.

Indeed, in December 2013, eight (8) of our children participated to the national exam after completing the eight years of primary school. This “KCPE” exam (Kenya Certificate of Primary Education) of the Ministry of Education is very important as the results determine in which school the child might be accepted for secondary or professional training.

Six (6) among them succeeded the exam and got accepted to a secondary school. We are extremely proud that one of our kids, Dancan, finished with a very high mark (B+) and got accepted to a very good school (the school is rated 48 among the 100 best schools in the country !!!). Three others, Ojwaya, Levis and Marcy got accepted to Provincial schools (requires a B- or C+) and Kihungu and Jotham are going to join the 3 elders who are at Mukuyu secondary school (District level). These results are a proof that Happy Home’s our past investments in proper education has bared fruit. It is indeed very improbable that those kids would have gone that far without Happy Home.

We now have in total 9 kids in secondary boarding school, 1 in polytechnic learning electricity, and 21 kids who are still in primary school and staying in Happy Home. The children in boarding school are closely followed up by the manager, nurse and social worker and come home for holidays.

Note that next year (end 2014) another 10 kids will attempt to graduate from primary school. With only 11 kids remaining in the dormitories, we will then revise our staff structure to better suit the needs of our growing children.

Best greetings and many thanks to you from the proud Happy Home Board



Happy Home News

THE KENYA NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL
EXAMINATION FOR THE KENYA CERTIFICATE OF PRIMARY EDUCATION
ONLINE RESULT SLIP

KNEC K.C.P.E

44736223 MIGORI HIGHLIGHT ACAD
44736223001 **DANCAN** *M* 2013

SUBJECT	MARK	GRADE
ENGLISH LANGUAGE	74	B+ (PLUS)
KISWAHILI	76	A- (MINUS)
MATHEMATICS	83	A (PLAIN)
SCIENCE	71	B+ (PLUS)
SOCIAL STUDIES AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	70	B+ (PLUS)
TOTAL	374	

DATE : 140315

School Stamp & Date: Head Teacher's Signature:

THE KENYA NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL
EXAMINATION FOR THE KENYA CERTIFICATE OF PRIMARY EDUCATION
ONLINE RESULT SLIP

KNEC K.C.P.E

44736223 MIGORI HIGHLIGHT ACAD
44736223005 **OJWAYA** *M* 2013

SUBJECT	MARK	GRADE
ENGLISH LANGUAGE	49	C (PLAIN)
KISWAHILI	61	B- (MINUS)
MATHEMATICS	64	B- (MINUS)
SCIENCE	71	B+ (PLUS)
SOCIAL STUDIES AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	67	B (PLAIN)
TOTAL	312	

DATE : 140315

School Stamp & Date: Head Teacher's Signature:

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KNEC K.C.P.E

44736223 MIGORI HIGHLIGHT ACAD
44736223003 **LEVIS** *M* 2013

SUBJECT	MARK	GRADE
ENGLISH LANGUAGE	52	C (PLAIN)
KISWAHILI	64	B- (MINUS)
MATHEMATICS	62	B- (MINUS)
SCIENCE	68	B (PLAIN)
SOCIAL STUDIES AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	65	B (PLAIN)
TOTAL	311	

DATE : 140315

School Stamp & Date: Head Teacher's Signature:

THE KENYA NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL
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ONLINE RESULT SLIP

KNEC K.C.P.E

44736223 MIGORI HIGHLIGHT ACAD
44736223006 **MERCY** *M* 2013

SUBJECT	MARK	GRADE
ENGLISH LANGUAGE	54	C (PLAIN)
KISWAHILI	63	B- (MINUS)
MATHEMATICS	52	C (PLAIN)
SCIENCE	62	B- (MINUS)
SOCIAL STUDIES AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	50	C (PLAIN)
TOTAL	281	

DATE : 140315

School Stamp & Date: Head Teacher's Signature:

We are very proud of the KCPE results of Dancan (B+), Ojwaya (B-), Levis (B-) and Mercy (C+).



Oct.-Dec. 2013: Class 8 kids preparing for the KCPE exam

The following stories were sent to us by our volunteer aunty FINN. Thanks you so much!

Since early October 2013 the children of Class 8 started preparing for the KCPE exam that was scheduled for early November. They were really busy with studying. To help the kids prepare for their exams, Liz and I went to the school, to speak about every child with the teachers.

With the other kids, I played a lot of football as she discovered the Stella-football-ground, a small and flat field. They also watched the Story of Judas as a bible movie on the computer. Liz and I had to translate the whole movie from German to English for the kids... On Saturday, Finn went on a long nature walk, near Kakrao. On Sunday, we went to church, except Class 8 children who had to study and after we played and relaxed with the kids. Mid October, we decided to start a football team. The training should be on the little field in Stella. The volunteers met another football coach who showed a lot of tips for training the youngsters. Sadly the youngest kids were not motivated to create a team and the eldest were preparing for the exams.

Mid November Liz prepared a Good-bye Party. A new volunteer, Stefanie, would arrive to replace her. We organized a nice party for her departure. Every kid got a present from Liz and a hug. I played theatre with 5 children and it was a lot fun. After there was singing and dancing. We slept in the dining hall.

Late 2013 the KCP exam took place and school was closed for the smaller kids, who were in Happy Home the whole time. We were doing a lot of nature walks. I played a lot of football with our children and the neighboring kids. After the KCP exams the kids went on family visits for a week to their relatives in their native villages.



Happy Home News

Jan. 2014: Primary school kids start their new school year

The following stories were sent to us by our volunteer aunty STEPHANIE. Thanks you so much!

The children of the Happy Home came back on 7th of January. The first days they were very excited because they had a lot of stories to tell about what they experienced during break time at home and at Christmas. The next day the school was opened again so they all went back to class. In Kenya, the school year starts in January so the kids went to their new class. The six kids who would start secondary school in February this year remained at home.

The daily routine started again in Happy Home : during the week the children always woke up at 5 AM to do their manual work, after tea they left to school at 7 AM. For lunch they came back and then after school at around 5 PM. Afterwards they always had a short time to relax and play before they did their washing of the clothes, bathing and cleaning. In the evening, during the week, they always did their homework and studied for exams. At around 8:30 pm we started to sing, dance and pray. After this the children went to bed.



The children received new school shoes to start the year.



Happy Home News



Children washing their clothes at the borehole. Unfortunately it didn't rain a lot in the last months so there is not too much water available.



The kids having their lunch during the week.

On weekends they only went to school on Saturday morning to revise, so in the afternoon we were able to play games, card games, and active games, to make sports or to go for a nature walk. In the evening we were watching or playing games together. On Sunday morning the kids always went to church and in the afternoon we always went for long nature walks. In the evening they were studying again.



Happy Home News

Feb. 2014: Happy Home kids ready to start secondary school

The following stories were sent to us by our volunteer aunty STEPHANIE. Thanks you so much!

The month of February was very special for six of the Happy Home children. They left to high school and were very excited and curious what would be waiting there for them. After everything was bought for them and they had been prepared, one after the other they were brought to their new schools and were registered there. They were really proud when they were in their new school uniforms and at their new schools. Motivated to study a lot in the last 4 years.

The first one leaving was Levis. He went to the Pe-Hill Secondary school in Awendo.



Dancan Odongo went to Rongo to Kanyawanga High school.



Happy Home News

The next one was Mercy. Mam'dogo (Happy Home's mother and nurse) brought her to the girls-high school called St. Mary Gorrety's Dede Girls High school.



Oywaya went to Migori Boys in Migori and Kihungu and Amriodo went to the Mukuyu Secondary School. For all the others the month was quite normal.

At the beginning of the month we had to say good bye to the volunteer Finn from Germany who was flying back. As a surprise Sybille, a volunteer from 2012, came to visit the Happy Home for almost one week. The children were very happy to see their old Aunty once again.



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At the end of the month there was an education day for all primary schools around. It was a good day for the kids. Some of our girls presented a dance. It was fun for them to dance and sing in front of all the guests.

My plans for February were to buy beads in Nairobi, in order to start a bead-bracelets-project with the children. I want to make the bracelets together with the children, in the colors of Kenya, so that we can sell them, when they are finished.

At the beginning the kids told me that it is too hard and complicated, but now they are really enjoying this time and became very creative in finding new ways of making various bracelets. I thought that it is maybe more a job for the girls, but also the boys are having fun doing them.



Girls dancing at the education day

The kids learned it quite fast and are getting better each time. I hope that they will stay as motivated as they are at the moment. We can only do them on weekends because during the week the kids are too busy doing their work, the cleaning and the homework as they also have school from 7am to 5 pm. But on weekends they usually have more free time so they can do this creative work.

Even if they like doing this new thing they are always insisting on a nature walk which we are all enjoying. It's nice to walk the distances with them, it's a time where they can chat and have fun while getting to know the nature. We usually take two or three hours walking around.



some of the bracelets the children made



Happy Home News

Looking for volunteers : Willing to help us ???

Had je liever een nieuwsbrief in het Nederlands?

Wij zoeken vrijwillige vertalers !!! Email me isabelle@happyhomekenya.org

Auriez vous aimé avoir les nouvelles en Français?

On cherche des volontaires pour la traduction !!! Contactez-moi isabelle@happyhomekenya.org

Fundraising !!!! Are you motivated, convincing and willing to help Happy Home ??? We need new godfathers and mothers to replace those who left us recently. Please contact us at info@HappyHomeKenya.org BEFORE taking any initiative to ensure transparency. We will be able to guide you and support your initiative.

Volunteer in Kenya

We welcome volunteers who would like to spend at least 3 months with the children in Kenya. Volunteers assist the staff in their office duties, help the children with their homework and tutor them, participate in animation of games for the children, and write stories for newsletters. To apply : (1) first read our website carefully (2) read the volunteer agreement (3) Contact us at least 2 months before your planned departure on volunteer@HappyHomeKenya.org, with your CV and a letter.

Volunteer at home

We always need helping hands for administration. Do you have some free time to offer ? Please contact us at info@HappyHomeKenya.org.



Happy Home News

Happy Home Contacts



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Happy Home Orphanage (Kenya)



I want to help !!!

Names:
 Email:
 Contact address:

- o I register as a **godfather/mother** of Happy Home and agree to give monthly donations ofEUR to Happy Home Orphanage bank account.
 In case of termination of my sponsoring, I will contact Happy Home by email or post at least two months in advance.
- o I give a **casual donations** of EUR to Happy Home Orphanage bank account.
- o I would like to **help in the country office** with (specify) or organise a Fund-raising activity..... (specify) in (town) on ... / ... / 2011

Done in on Signature,

The money you are so kind to give will integrally be used to provide a safe and comfortable home to total orphans registered in the orphanage and to maintain their home.

Bank Account (please thicken your choice):

- o **Europe** "AMIE VZW " hosts our project: Account: 979-3261073-35
 (IBAN: BE57 9793 2610 7335 - BIC: ARSPBE22).
 Please mention your name & email. Tax deductible in Belgium from **40-€** /year)
- o **USA** Checks payable to the "African Childrens Haven" and mark the memo line as "Happy Home Kenya". (US income tax deductible)
- o **Canada** DESJARDINS account of "ÉSÉE Monde": # Transit: 30219 # Institution: 815 # Account: 0823617 (Tax deductible > 30Ca\$ / year).
 Please mention « Happy Home Project », your name & email.

PLEASE POST TO THE CONTACTS LEFT OR TO info@HappyHomeKenya.org

